

Meeting and Voting Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I access information about the Warrant and town budget?

All information regarding all the Warrant Articles including the budget and other appropriations is available on the Town website at <https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-Information>

2. How do I ask questions or make a comment during the July 20 meeting?

Comments and questions will be taken after each Warrant Article is presented. Voters should use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom at the appropriate time to let the Moderator know he/she would like to speak. Commenters must identify themselves by name and address. Just like our regular in-person meetings, the Moderator asks that comments be kept brief (regular 3-minute maximum will apply). YouTube Live does not provide the ability to comment.

3. How do I ask questions, comment, or propose a motion following the July 20 meeting?

After the first session is recessed, questions, comments, and motions will be accepted by telephone voice mail (603-746-8256) or email (moderator@hopkinton-nh.gov). Just like in our traditional meeting format, all questions, comments, and motions on the Articles and these Rules and Procedures must start with the voter identifying her/his name and street address. All comments will be included in the minutes of the meeting. The Moderator will not consider any comments deemed inappropriate or offensive, or which do not properly identify the voter.

All submissions must be made prior to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

Voters may also comment and ask questions during the public comment session of the Friday, July 24 meeting, but motions to amend will not be accepted during that meeting.

4. How are amendments determined?

The Moderator will review all submissions and prepare a summary. This summary will include questions to be posed to the Select Board. Based on the comments and motions, the Moderator will add one or more “Motions to Amend and Approve as Amended” to the ballot. Any Motions to Amend and Approve as Amended will be based on the comments and will be added at the discretion of the Moderator, with the goal of determining the will of the meeting.

5. Should I vote on all Amendments/Motions for a particular Article?

YES! Because we do not know what will pass or fail until all ballots are counted, you should vote on every single amendment/motion. If the first motion fails, then it will continue onto the next motion until a motion passes. Voters may vote “Yes” or “No” for EVERY Amendment/Motion/Article.

6. Can voters still register to vote if they are not yet registered?

YES! Town residents who are not already registered to vote may register to vote for the July 25 Town Meeting voting with the Town Clerk at the Town Hall (330 Main St., Hopkinton), Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – noon. ***The deadline for registering is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.*** The July 25th voting is the Business Session of the 2020 Hopkinton Town Meeting and as such, same day voter registration and absentee ballots are not permitted by law. All votes must be made in person.

7. When do I actually vote?

Voting occurs on Saturday July 25th between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at Hopkinton Middle/High School (297 Park Avenue, Contoocook). Please enter from the Park Avenue entrance and follow the signs.

8. Can I vote by absentee ballot?

No – absentee balloting is not allowed by NH statute for Town Meeting or School District Annual Meeting.

9. Can I print out and fill out my ballot ahead of time?

YES – the ballot will be finalized and posted by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24, so you can print it and fill it out. You should bring it with you on voting day. Printed ballots will be made available at the Town Hall (330 Main St., Hopkinton) and outside the Slusser Center (41 Houston Dr., Contoocook) after 3:00 on Friday and at the Middle/High School on Saturday.

10. What if I do not have a printer?

Printed ballots will be made available at the Town Hall (330 Main St., Hopkinton) and outside the Slusser Center (41 Houston Dr., Contoocook) after 3:00 on Friday and at the Middle/High School on Saturday.

11. Will transportation be provided to and from voting on July 25?

No – like our traditional in-person Town Meeting, the town is not able to provide transportation.

12. How can I access the virtual meetings?

You can use Zoom, YouTube Live, or the telephone. To speak at the meetings, you must be using Zoom. The following access information is for both the Monday and Friday meetings.

- **ZOOM MEETING:** <https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-ZOOM>
- **YOUTUBE LIVE:** <https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-YouTube>
- **TELEPHONE:** Dial: **1-312-626-6799** or **1-646-558-8656** and then enter **Meeting ID: 867 8931 4545**

13. How will social distancing be observed during voting?

Voters remaining in their cars will keep their windows up and show identification through the window to a Supervisor of the Checklist or assistant or will announce their names and addresses through windows to check-in with the Supervisor. Voters may arrive on foot or bicycle but must maintain appropriate social distance and are requested to wear appropriate face coverings. All voters should be aware of their surroundings while participating in this process.

Voters are encouraged to print out their ballots at home or pick one up on Friday after 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall or Slusser Center, or they may receive one at the high school on Saturday. Printing ballots at home will likely result in faster, safer voting. If receiving a ballot on Saturday, please pull to the marked area to allow others to check in, then park and mark the ballot.

Ballots will be available for downloading and printing at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, July 24 on the Town website: <https://bit.ly/HopkintonTownMeeting-Information> .

When ready to cast a ballot, the voter will move forward to the ballot box, the number of voters in the car will be confirmed, and the voter will cast the marked ballot(s) into the ballot box. It is understood that more than one voter may arrive in the same car.

All participants are required to keep no less than 6-feet of distance between each other, to comply with State and CDC guidelines concerning COVID-19. The Moderator has the authority to remove any person who does not abide by these procedures or disrupts any session of the meeting. (RSA 40:8)

14. What would cause the meeting to be recessed?

The Moderator will recess the meeting only if the Proposed Rules are rejected, or if the Proposed Rules are accepted but no Operating Budget is accepted (i.e. the Article 5 Amendments and Article fail to pass). If any other Article fails, then that result will stand, and we do not reconvene the meeting.